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House of Representatives

STATEMENT OF
CONGRESSMAN ED CASE OF HAWAII
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, together with 29 of my colleagues, a concurrent resolution to formally recognize the 2006 centennial of sustained Filipino immigration to the United States, acknowledge the many achievements of our Filipino-American community, and reflect on the productive and enduring relationship between the United States and the Philippines over the past century.

The Filipino-American experience and the evolving yet always close relationship between the Philippines and the United States began in earnest in 1906, when fifteen Filipino contract laborers arrived in the then-Territory of Hawaii to work on the islands' sugar plantations. This marked the start of an emigration from the Philippines to the United States which, during the subsequent century, has numbered upwards of 60,000 a year, making Filipinos our second-largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The year 1906 was also when the first class of two hundred "pensionados" arrived from the Philippines to obtain a United States education with the intent of returning to the Philippines. Many, however, stayed to become American citizens, forming, with the "sakadas" who emigrated to my Hawaii, the foundation of today's Filipino-American community.

The story of America's Filipino-American community is little known and rarely told. Yet it is the quintessential immigrant story of early struggle, pain, sacrifice, and broken dreams, leading eventually to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in American society.

Today, 2.4 million Americans of Filipino ancestry live throughout our nation, including the two top states: California, where 1.1 million reside, and Hawaii, my home state, where some 275,000 live (140,000 in my Second Congressional District alone, making it home to the larg-

est number of Filipino Americans of any congressional district). Members of this community have made great contributions to America, and have achieved success and distinction in, among other things, labor, business, politics, media and the arts, medicine, and the armed forces. Filipino Americans have also served with distinction in the armed forces of the United States throughout the long U.S.-Philippines relationship, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

Many Filipino Americans retained their mother country's proud cultural traditions, which continue to enrich the diverse tapestry of today's American experience. Many have also maintained close ties to family and friends in the Philippines, and therefore played an indispensable role in maintaining the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Philippines relationship.

That relationship has evolved over the past century from the 1898-1946 period of U.S. governance, during which the then-Commonwealth of the Philippines was represented in the U.S. Congress by thirteen resident commissioners, to the post-independence period beginning in 1946, when the Philippines took its place among the community of nations and became one of this country's most reliable allies in the international arena.

In 2006, our Filipino-American community will join all Americans in pausing to recognize a century of achievement in the United States through a series of nationwide celebrations and memorials marking the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines. This centennial will provide every American of whatever ethnic heritage an opportunity to not only celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States, but to celebrate, appreciate, and honor the struggles and triumphs common to the immigrant experience, which, of course, is also the American experience.

H.Con.Res. 218, Recognizing the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and acknowledging the contributions of our Filipino-American community to our country over the last century.

Sponsor: Rep Case, Ed [HI-2] (introduced 7/26/2005) Cosponsors (29)

Latest Major Action: 7/26/2005 Referred to House Committee on Government Reform.

ORIGINAL COSPONSORS(29), ALPHABETICAL

<u>Rep Abercrombie, Neil</u> [HI-1] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Becerra, Xavier</u> [CA-31] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Berman, Howard L.</u> [CA-28] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z.</u> [GU] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Burton, Dan</u> [IN-5] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Crowley, Joseph</u> [NY-7] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Dicks, Norman D.</u> [WA-6] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Faleomavaega, Eni F. H.</u> [AS] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Farr, Sam</u> [CA-17] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Filner, Bob</u> [CA-51] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Green, Al</u> [TX-9] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Grijalva, Raul M.</u> [AZ-7] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Harman, Jane</u> [CA-36] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Honda, Michael M.</u> [CA-15] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Issa, Darrell E.</u> [CA-49] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Lofgren, Zoe</u> [CA-16] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Matsui, Doris O.</u> [CA-5] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep McCaul, Michael T.</u> [TX-10] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep McDermott, Jim</u> [WA-7] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Miller, George</u> [CA-7] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Napolitano, Grace F.</u> [CA-38] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr.</u> [NJ-6] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille</u> [CA-34] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Schakowsky, Janice D.</u> [IL-9] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Schiff, Adam B.</u> [CA-29] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Scott, Robert C.</u> [VA-3] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Serrano, Jose E.</u> [NY-16] - 7/26/2005	<u>Rep Smith, Adam</u> [WA-9] - 7/26/2005
<u>Rep Watson, Diane E.</u> [CA-33] - 7/26/2005	

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(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Recognizing the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and acknowledging the contributions of our Filipino-American community to our country over the last century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and acknowledging the contributions of our Filipino-American community to our country over the last century.

Whereas the peoples of the Philippine archipelago have a long and proud history, and today, as the Republic of the Philippines, embrace democracy, occupy a central strategic position in Asia and the Pacific, and nurture a rich and diverse cultural heritage;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have enjoyed a long and productive relationship, including the period



of United States governance between 1898 and 1946, and the period post-independence starting in 1946, during which the Philippines has taken its place among the community of nations and has been one of our country's most loyal and reliable allies internationally;

Whereas the bonds between our two countries have been strengthened through sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States;

Whereas the 2000 census counted almost 2.4 million Americans of Filipino ancestry living in all parts of our country, including the top two States: California, with almost 1.1 million Filipino Americans, and Hawaii, with some 275,000;

Whereas the contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States include achievement in all segments of our society, including, to name a few, labor, business, politics, medicine, media and the arts;

Whereas Filipino Americans have especially served with distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States throughout the history of our long relationship, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas within the United States, Filipino Americans retained many of their country's proud cultural traditions and contribute immeasurably to the diverse tapestry of today's American experience;

Whereas Filipino Americans have also maintained close ties to their friends and relatives in the Philippines and in doing so play an indispensable role in maintaining the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Philippines relationship;



Whereas both the Filipino experience in the United States and the resultant ties between our two great countries began in earnest in 1906, when 15 Filipino contract laborers arrived in the then-Territory of Hawaii to work on the islands' sugar plantations, the beginnings of an emigration from the Philippines to Hawaii which, during the subsequent century, has sometimes exceeded 60,000 a year, making Filipinos the largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas 1906 also saw the first class of two hundred "pensionados" arrive from the Philippines to obtain United States educations with the intent of returning, although many later became United States citizens and helped form the foundation of today's Filipino-American community;

Whereas the story of America's Filipino-American community is little known and rarely told, yet is the quintessential immigrant story of early struggle, pain, sacrifice, and broken dreams, leading eventually to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in American society;

Whereas our Filipino-American community will recognize a century of achievement in the United States in 2006 through a series of nationwide celebrations and memorials honoring the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines; and

Whereas this centennial is for all Americans of whatever ethnic origin to celebrate both with and in order to understand and appreciate our Filipino-American community, but also as a remembrance of the struggles and triumphs of all of our predecessors and in honor of our common national experience: Now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the centennial of sustained immi-
4 gration from the Philippines to the United States;

5 (2) acknowledges the achievements and con-
6 tributions of Filipino Americans over the past cen-
7 tury; and

8 (3) requests that the President issue a procla-
9 mation calling on the people of the United States to
10 observe this milestone with appropriate celebratory
11 and educational programs, ceremonies and other ac-
12 tivities.

